

THE JAMBAR

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Youngstown State University
since 1931.



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'FINE-TUNE' YOUR LOVE FOR YOUNGSTOWN

THE SIDEBAR



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WEATHER

Today 33° 30°

Wednesday 32° 27°

Thursday 36° 27°

Friday 38° 28°

Saturday 32° 24°

Sunday 28° 23°

Monday 32° 24°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

Rolling out a new bill

Dan Pompili
REPORTER

A bill in the state senate could make Ohio the 14th state to allow medical usage of marijuana.

Senate Bill 343, known as The Ohio Medical Compassion Act of 2008, saw its first testimony hearing in the Ohio State Senate on Nov. 19.

The act would give regulatory power over legal cultivation and use of medical marijuana to Ohio's departments of health and agriculture.

The Act was first introduced on June 10 by state Sen. Tom Roberts and is also being sponsored by state Sen. Dale Miller, both Democrats.

Damian Hardy, legislative aide to Roberts, said the response to the bill Wednesday was "better than we were expecting."

Hardy said the testimony for Richard Wyderski of Dayton was particularly helpful to arguments in favor of the bill.

Wyderski, a doctor of geriatric and internal medicine, and a 2008 primary candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Ohio's 7th

District, has been a longtime proponent for such a bill. As far back as October 2002, Wyderski advocated the use of medical marijuana on a weekly program on National Public Radio.

According to a study found on MedicalMarijuanaProCon.org, Wyderski is not alone.

Of 106 physicians consulted, 44 were in favor of legalizing medical use of marijuana; 26 were opposed, while 36 doctors remained neutral.

Hardy said the bill is already seeing "growing support."

Hardy said the passage of a similar law in Michigan this year may help the Ohio bill.

"It may be something that would help ... but we're going to have to see how Ohioans feel," he said.

No vote was taken on the bill in its first Senate hearing, and Hardy said they are waiting to see what the next step is.

Some Youngstown State University students felt strongly about the prospect of legalized marijuana.

Sophomore Jake Volsko said marijuana should be legalized on all purposes, but also supported the legalization of medical marijuana use.

"We should just let them use it," Volsko said. "We might as well make them feel better. Why not? It just grows. There's no baking soda and no chemicals. It's just a natural painkiller."

NEW BILL, page 3



Staph infection more risky during flu season

Matt Lattanzi
REPORTER

Students at Youngstown State University should be aware of staph infections, especially during flu season, say local experts.

Staphylococcus or, as it is more commonly known, "staph" is a bacteria that lives on the skin. The Academy of Family Physicians notes that there are over 30 different strands of staph bacteria in existence, with effects that range from minor illness to

rare cases of serious infection of the "lungs, bones, joints, heart, blood and central nervous system."

Dr. John Venglarcik, medical director for the Mahoning County District Board of Health, said the infection occurs when "skin gets broken or cut and the bacteria makes its way to the wound." The most serious form of the disease is methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus.

"That form of infection is very resistant to common antibiotics," said Venglarcik,

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Staphylococcus aureus

Antibiotic-resistant staph infections are more common and much deadlier than previously believed, causing about 94,000 life-threatening infections and 19,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2005.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

- Resistant to penicillin-related antibiotics; can be treated with other drugs, but health officials fear resistance to those too
- Bacteria lives on skin or in nose, can be carried by healthy people

Prevention and treatment

- Keep wounds covered, dry and clean
- Avoid sharing personal items
- Consult doctor at first sign of infection

Source: Journal of the American Medical Association, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Melissa Vingling

MRSA bacteria, under microscope



Skin infection



- Red, swollen and painful
- Pus or other discharge
- Bacteria enters skin through cut or small break
- Spread by skin-to-skin contact
- More severe if bacteria enters bloodstream

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YSU racial diversity important to majority

Samantha Pyscher
REPORTER

A majority of students believe that Youngstown State University is achieving their goal of racial diversity.

In a nonscientific survey of 100 students conducted by The Jambar, 89 percent believe YSU is racially diverse, and 11 percent believe it is not.

In fall 2007, 18.10 percent of YSU's undergraduate enrollment was comprised of minorities, which was an increase from 2003's rate of 13.24 percent, according to institutional research Web site. However, this number includes Youngstown Early College, which did not exist in 2003. YEC came to YSU in August of 2004.

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the office of equal opportunity and diversity, believes the students that said YSU is not a diverse campus may have answered by asking themselves, "Is there enough diversity on campus?"

"The bottom line is, how do we define diversity?" said McCarty-Harris. "There is no doubt that YSU is a diverse campus."

She said diversity is something that the university strives for.

"A campus where people feel valued and accepted is important," McCarty-Harris said. "It enhances the learning environment when you have a diverse group of students."

"If you don't take the time to experience different groups of people, you have the tendency to look at things as one way," McCarty-Harris said.

Although McCarty-Harris said she feels YSU is a diverse campus, there is always room to create more diversity on campus.

Sophomore Trillion McCarty said she believes the campus is diverse.

"Definitely, just walk around campus and you can see the different races," she said. "You can even see it in the staff."

The range of campus diversity is a reflection on the community, said McCarty-Harris. McCarty-Harris also believes a diverse campus can lead to more cultural viewpoints.

DIVERSITY, page 3

Seasonal changes found to cause depression

Courtney Denen
REPORTER

The change from warm to cold weather can cause some students to experience symptoms of seasonal depression.

According to the National Mental Health Association, these symptoms are defined as seasonal affective disorder. It is a condition of regularly occurring depressions in winter. The American Psychiatric Association said the disorder is experienced when there is a "significant, lasting, downturn of mood when the weather gets colder and daylight lessens." The APA states that the disorder is linked to a biochemical imbalance in the brain brought on by the shortening of daylight hours and a lack of sunlight in the winter.

The Cleveland Clinic defines the disorder as a "depression that occurs each year at the same time, usually starting in the fall or winter and ending in spring or early summer. It is more than just the winter blues or cabin fever."

Christine Belohlavek, a family counselor for Columbiana County Counseling Services said the exact cause for the disorder is not known. "The influence of latitude strongly suggests that it is caused by changes in the availability of sunlight. One theory is that with decreased exposure to sunlight, the biological clock that regulates mood, sleep, and hormones is delayed, running more slowly in winter," Belohlavek said.

According to statistics from the Cleveland

DEPRESSION, page 3

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Sarah Sole 330-941-1991
 MANAGING EDITOR: Richard Louis Boccia 330-941-1807
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 COPY EDITOR: Chelsea Pflugh 330-941-3758
 ASSIST. COPY EDITOR: Amanda Goddard 330-941-1913
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 REPORTER: Lanar Salter 330-941-1913
 REPORTER: Melissa Mary Smith 330-941-1913
 REPORTER: Emmalee Torisk 330-941-1913
 REPORTER: Darlene Wagner 330-941-1913

E-MAIL editor@thejambar.com
 FAX 330-941-2322

SALES MANAGER: Jennifer Coengros 330-941-1990
 RECEPTIONIST: Michelle High 330-941-3095
 BUSINESS MANAGER: Olga Ziobert 330-941-3094
 ADVISER: Mary Beth Earnhardt 330-941-3095

News Briefs

Rich Center students donate blankets to rescue mission

The Rich Center for the Study and Treatment of Autism at YSU held an art project over the summer, and it has just ended in time for the holiday season. Forty-five Rich Center students made 80 quilts during the summer art program, and they will present the quilts to residents and staff of the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley.

SMARTS Holiday Open House set for Dec. 2

YSU's Students Motivated by the Arts is hosting their sixth annual Holiday Open House from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2. The store is open from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Working Class blog focuses on Obama election

The Working Class Studies at YSU has created a blog focusing on President-elect Barack Obama. It offers weekly commentaries on issues related to the working class people and communities surrounding the Youngstown area. The site has over 5,000 hits in two months, and has reached readers in Germany and the United Kingdom.

yo* calendar

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broaden yo* horizons

Music at Noon, Faculty Chamber Music
 • Wednesday, November 26
 • Butler Institute of American Art

plan yo* night

Y-Dance Club
 • Ukrainian Orthodox Church/Pavilion
 • Tuesday, November 28
 • Lessons begin at 6:45
 • \$3-\$8

Open Mik Night
 • County Maigh Eo
 • Tuesday, November 25,
 • 9:00 p.m.
 • Ages 21 and over

Comit & Karaoke
 • The Funny Farm Comedy Club
 • Wednesday, November 26,
 • 8:00 p.m.
 • \$5

College ID Night
 • The Wedge
 • Wednesday, November 26,
 • 9:00 p.m.
 • Ages 21 and over
 • \$5-\$10

Dry forecast for a Wet Seal Christmas

Samantha Cavalier
 REPORTER

Sophomore Alex Valentine remembers seeing a packed parking lot and a line of people at the door when driving past the Toys "R" Us store in Boardman.

Now, the parking lot is nothing like it was in her childhood.

"It's only going to get worse before it gets better," said Valentine of the economy.

With the holidays approaching rapidly, some may begin to stress over the buildup of holiday tasks, such as buying and wrapping gifts, writing and sending out holiday cards and planning holiday events. But the most frustrating thing the majority of people may deal with this holiday season is a shortage of money for shopping.

Some Youngstown State University students who work in retail confirm this grim prognosis.

Freshman Kirsten Kuffel is noticing the differences between last year's holiday season and this year's.

"I think that the people won't buy as many things and Christmas won't be as big as it has been in recent years because people don't have the extra money to spend because of the recession," Kuffel said.

Junior Chris Martin also sees similar problems.

"I think that the economy has made everyone cut back and think about the differences of wants and needs and only buy what's necessary," Martin said.

Not only are consumers hurting during this holiday season, but retail stores are also hurting a great deal due to the rapid drop in sales this holiday season. ShopperTrak RCT, a retail research firm, predicted that store traffic would decrease 9.9 percent from last year and also that retail sales would rise only 0.1 percent. Due to the decline of the financial market and a shorter holiday season this year, retail sales are plummeting more than ever this year.

Senior Candace Madden is an American Eagle Outfitters employee at the Southern Park Mall and has noticed the decline in sales.

"Since sales have been dropping, thefts have increased. Also American Eagle is planning to mark down merchandise a lot sooner than

Holiday shopping tips

If you are among the millions of people who claim to have holiday stress, here are a few simple suggestions to reduce expenses and overcome your stress just in time to enjoy the holidays.

Plan ahead

Holidays are a yearly event. Plan where family and friends events will be hosted months ahead of time to reduce the risk of unexpected events thrown onto your plate last minute.

Make a budget

Make a list of everyone you plan to buy gifts for. Then decide how much you want to spend on each individual person. Write simple notes of ideas for gifts next to each person. When it's time to go shopping, bring the list and make sure to stick by it no matter what. You made a holiday budget for a reason.

Shop early

In order to cut costs, start shopping for the holidays at the beginning of the year. When a great sale comes, take advantage of it. By using this technique you will save money, spread out costs over a longer period of time, and also finish shopping earlier in the year.

Make homemade gifts

Make simple, personalized gifts rather than spending a great deal of money on things everyone is getting for the holidays. Homemade cookies and treats make great holiday gifts. If you can sew, knit, or put together a scrapbook, take advantage of it. A personalized CD is also an inexpensive gift. Make a list of fun, romantic, or memorable songs and tailor it to the recipient.

in previous years because people are looking for bargains. Hours are also tight because we aren't making our daily numbers," said Madden.

Sophomore Julie Rice is an employee at Wet Seal at the Southern Park Mall, and like Madden, has seen these issues as well.

Rice said Wet Seal has had a decline in sales attributed it



Shop online

This will cut time tremendously. Instead of rushing around the malls and other shops, you can shop peacefully in the comfort of your own home. Not only does this save you valuable time, but it can cut costs as well if done strategically.

Do a gift exchange

If cash is particularly low this year, try using a friend and family gift exchange. This technique cuts costs drastically. Instead of buying every one of your friends and family members a gift, you will only be responsible for one gift. Don't think of this as being the cheap way out. Others would probably love to take part in this event to cut their expenses as well.

Bargain Wrap

Wrapping paper, gift bags, and decorating essentials can be expensive if bought in large quantities. If funds are low this year, use things such as newspapers, comics or pages from magazines to wrap gifts. Reuse gift bags that you have received previously from others. Also, instead of buying ribbons and bows, try using yarn and string to cut costs in half.

to the economy. "We're bringing in revenue but we're not making big sales. We have to work double to make our daily goals of sales because people are buying one item instead of, like, three," Rice said. like most PI

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- The English Department
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STAPH, page 1

adding, "and when combined with influenza, it can cause a serious form of pneumonia."

Vengalrcik added that the most common ways for this infection to take place are when shaving or playing sports, particularly football and wrestling. His warning for college students is to be wary of activity where you come in regular contact with "sweaty" skin. He urges students to be clean in the dorm rooms.

"Piling up dirty clothes ... and not washing can allow bacteria to grow on them," Vengalrcik said.

Vengalrcik said staph infections appear on the skin as "little red bumps" that resemble acne.

A common problem with staph infections is that people try to cast off the bumps as something else.

"Staph is frequently misdiagnosed as spider bites," said Vengalrcik adding that "there are no biting spiders in northeastern Ohio."

"If you have just one red bump, it's not an issue, but if you have a cluster, have it looked at by student health services," Vengalrcik said.

He said students usually don't

need to worry, though, because the disease is typically non life-threatening and will disappear after 7-10 days with the correct antibiotic.

Students on campus said they are concerned about the disease.

Freshman Marc Gorvet said his father almost died from a staph infection when he was in the sixth grade, so he said he tries to keep aware of his health.

"I do worry about it, but I don't stress out. Usually I just try to keep clean," said Gorvet. Other students said they were concerned about staph at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, where exercisers daily come in contact with other people's skin.

"I've seen people who don't wipe down their machines. Honestly, it happens a lot," said sophomore Matt Kukura.

Brandy Shumaker, assistant director for fitness and facility operations at the center, said staph infection is not a problem at the Rec.

"I have not heard of any cases of staph infection in Andrews or cases being attributed to Andrews," said Shumaker.

Shumaker said their facility

staff is extremely stringent about enforcing health policies. They are trained in OSHA procedures and strive to comply with all the regulations.

She said Rec policy is for patrons to wipe down their machines after every use. Repeat offenders may have their gym privileges revoked.

"We take this policy very seriously for the safety of all our patrons," said Shumaker.

She said the staff cleans the machines "two times a day, every day" and that there is a schedule for employees that force them to clean the highly used machines more often. The employees are not only responsible for maintaining the machines, but also "monitoring the equipment to ensure that all pieces are cleaned after every use."

"All of our cleaning products have been thoroughly researched and chosen based on their effectiveness in properly disinfecting and killing not only staph, but also other common infectious diseases," said Shumaker.

editor@thejambar.com

DEPRESSION, page 1

Clinic, the disorder affects 6 percent of the U.S. population. Three-quarters of the sufferers are women, most of whom are in their 20s. SAD is more likely to affect people who live at high altitudes, where seasonal changes are more extreme. According to WebMD Medical reference, "inhabitants of the northern U.S. are eight times more likely to fall victim to SAD than those living in sunny, more temperate areas like Florida."

Belohlavek said she deals with mostly women in their 20s. "Clients I have dealt with explain the disorder as an extreme case of the blues. They complain of having much less energy, and all they want to do is eat and sleep. Those are the sure signs of seasonal affective disorder," Belohlavek said.

Some students at Youngstown State University feel that the season does bring a bleak feeling. Sophomore Danielle Martin said she dreads the cold weather. "I feel more depressed when the sky is gloomy and there is slush on the ground. It just makes me feel like the sun will never shine again."

Junior Kate Fleming said she notices a drop in attendance, especially when the roads get bad. "I think people get sick of walking around in the cold and they just avoid it all together."

Symptoms of seasonal affective disorder:

- Excessive sleeping
- Difficulty staying awake
- Weight gain
- Fatigue
- Decreased levels of energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Lack of interest in social interactions
- Losing interests in activities of enjoyment
- Sluggishness
- Difficulty with coping skills

Source: The APA

There is no cure for seasonal depression. "It never really goes away. It will probably come back every year. That's just the way the brain is wired," Belohlavek said.

She recommends light therapy as the best course of treatment. "Light therapy is administered by a device that contains white fluorescent light tubes covered with a plastic screen to block ultraviolet rays. The individual can read or eat while sitting in front of the lamp. It's not like a tanning bed where you just lay there, you can do normal everyday things while receiving treatment," Belohlavek said.

The light therapy has been known to alleviate symptoms within a period of days. Belohlavek said the light treatment is the best treatment for people suffering from mild to severe cases of the disorder. Treatment is best when done in the morning, since individuals will then start off the day with light rather than darkness.

In severe cases of the disorder, Belohlavek said antidepressants are prescribed, depending on the severity and the situation.

Belohlavek said many people confuse the causes of seasonal depression. "It's definitely more about the lack of light than the cold weather. I know I am in a better mood when it's sunny, even if it's 20 degrees outside," she said.

Still, SAD is not easily diagnosed, and the disorder could be confused for a number of things, Belohlavek said. People should be informed of the symptoms so they can be more aware of how they are feeling. If they feel frequently tired or have a big appetite for carbohydrates, they may want to see a doctor or counselor.

"A person does not have to suffer every year; with proper treatment they could actually enjoy the things that we all love about winter," Belohlavek said.

DIVERSITY, page 1

Furthermore, the survey showed that 72 percent of students feel YSU could be more diverse.

"We could always welcome in more races and genders," said McCarty-Harris.

Sophomore Demetrius Fambro said YSU is more diverse than other universities.

"I went to Mt. Union and there were probably only a handful of people that looked like me," Fambro said.

"If you look around the room, I'm probably the only black student," he said.

Although Fambro said he

feels comfortable, he said he knows that there are other students like him that feel uncomfortable.

Fambro said it is important to have a racially diverse campus because it can strengthen the college experience by preparing students to work with people from a number of different backgrounds.

Of the students surveyed, 13 percent said it is not important to have a racially diverse campus, and 87 percent said it is important to have a diverse campus.

spysher@thejambar.com

NEW BILL, page 1

While Freshman Adrienne Davenport said marijuana should be legal in pill form for medical purposes, she also added that numerous regulations would have to be created and enforced.

"You would have to prove you have cancer," Davenport said. "It should only be for people who are truly sick."

Still, Sophomore Nadine Anderson said she does not think marijuana should be legalized, even if it is for medical reasons.

"People would abuse that privilege," Anderson said. "They would say they need it for medical purposes or even steal it."

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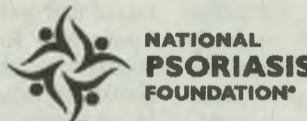


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A "Fine-Tuned" Youngstown

Tami Young
REPORTER

It all started with wanting to find out about his great grandfather, who came to Youngstown from Italy because there was an abundance of jobs. Producer Chris Rutushin, a Youngstown native, took his family roots as inspiration for his upcoming movie "Fine-Tune."

"Fine-Tune" is set in the 1970's and tells the story of newlyweds Jerry and Marie Maruskin, a couple who moves back to Youngstown to take care of Marie's Italian grandfather.

Jerry tries to fit into Marie's overbearing Italian family, but Marie's grandfather makes life rough for Jerry, giving Jerry a hard time every chance he gets.

Rutushin said he wanted to show all the positive things in Youngstown. Mill Creek Park, Handel's Ice Cream Shoppe, Royal Oaks Bar and Grill, Home

Savings and Loan, along with scenes in Ward Beecher Hall are shown in the film.

Rutushin wanted to play up the familiar places to this region, not just the steel mills. Since he couldn't recreate Youngstown he returned to shoot the movie here.

YSU student Branden Gauntner plays Jerry, who Rutushin said is seen throughout the movie sporting YSU gear.

YSU alumni Noelle Nackino plays Marie and said she fell in love with her character.

"It makes you proud to be from Youngstown and that makes me proud to be a part of it all," Nackino said, adding that the movie will relate to everyone, YSU students included.

"YSU students will relate because they are at that same age as Jerry

and Marie and the film centers around their young and new relationship and the difficulties they run into.

"Fine-Tune" will be released Nov. 29 at The Main Street Theater in downtown Columbiana.



TOP: (l-r) Noelle Nackino as Marie, Director Chris Rutushin with John Maluso, and Branden Gauntner as Jerry.

Squirt Blizzard Amaze Tango Normal Brisk Normal Engraved Tekton, TEKTON Boulevard Olive Normal Ulladi
French Script Koffee Sherwood Swing Bold Jester Phyllis Brush, BRUSH Brush Script From, FREEZE Lynda Cursin

GOUDY, Goudy Serpentine WIDE Latin
Avant Garde ARIAL, arial Bobo, BOBO BRITANNIC, Britannic

Fonts may speak louder than words

Emmalee C. Torisk
REPORTER

Although the content of a paper likely has more of an influence on the grade than the font used, an unscientific survey by one blogger found that font could ultimately affect the grade you receive on an assignment.

In a March 12, 2006 blog posted on Fadstastic, a Web design trends journal, college student Phil Renaud discovered after surveying 52 essays written during his first six semesters using Times New Roman, Trebuchet MS and Georgia, those written in the latter earned him the highest grades overall.

While investigating the fonts and grades of three years of college papers, including classes in philosophy, economics, political science and even computational neuromodeling, Renaud found he had written 11 papers in Times New Roman. These had an average score of A-, which Renaud said was quite close to his current GPA.

According to Renaud's post, Times New Roman was probably his font of choice at the time because it was the default in his word

program, but also because college freshmen, on the whole, are too lazy to bother changing fonts until later.

Next, Renaud observed he had written 18 papers in Trebuchet MS, but received a B- on average. Renaud said this plummet in scores wasn't attributed to paper neglect, personal crises or partying; most of these papers were from his second and third years of college, when he had more study time. In all Renaud's other classes -- courses that didn't have the option of font modification -- he received mostly As.

Finally, Renaud found that 23 of his college essays were written in Georgia, resulting in an A average for these papers. This is what triggered the thinking that "maybe fonts speak a lot louder than we think they do," Renaud wrote, adding that this could be particularly true for a professor who has dozens of essays to read and grade.

"Times seems to be the norm, so it really doesn't set off any subconscious triggers. Georgia is enough like Times to retain its academic feel, and is different enough to be something of a relief for the grader," Renaud wrote. He also noted that Trebuchet seems to "set off a negative trigger," perhaps

based on its difficulty to read in print and its association with blogging, rather than academic journal writing.

Additionally, Renaud hypothesized that perhaps serif fonts, like Times New Roman and Georgia, appeal to teachers more than sans serifs, including Trebuchet MS. He attributes this to the idea that serif fonts appear more academic than sans-serif fonts, which can be more stylistic. Regardless, Renaud wrote that awareness of the target audience is key.

Jay L. Gordon, a Youngstown State University English professor said, Renaud's theory is, for the most part, consistent with conventional wisdom in typography.

Generally, paragraphs of text, with closely packed letters in a relatively small serif font, are much more legible for a lot of people, Gordon said. He also said this may be why grades could be affected by font choice.

"You might receive better grades if your paper is a little easier to read," Gordon said. "It would cause less eye fatigue for professors, maybe putting them in a better attitude when grading."

Despite agreeing with Renaud's informal study, Gordon stressed the lack of similar studies, and said it would definitely be an inter-

esting topic to look into. Although he can't promise that certain fonts will yield better grades, Gordon said sometimes simpler is better, and cautioned against "dressing up" writing.

"I just like to look at the writing," Gordon said, acknowledging that 12-point Times New Roman is the agreed-upon standard font.

However, Gordon said he does prefer looking at a font appropriate to the project or assignment, and admitted it does get tiresome looking at Times New Roman, which has become a bit of a cliché in recent years.

Many YSU students stick with standard or default fonts, while some are a bit more adventurous with their font choice. However, most follow their teacher's requirements closely.

Freshman Kruba Solanki said he typically uses Times New Roman or Calibri, the new default font for Microsoft Word 2007, when writing papers. Usually, this is because a particular font is required for a class. However, Solanki prefers to use other fonts, namely Comic Sans, because it is easiest to read.

"In English, I have to use Times New Roman," Solanki said. "I don't like it though; it inhibits your creativity. Fonts give your

papers a personality. I'm a big font guy."

For his papers, junior Mark Allison said he uses either Verdana or Calibri, mainly because it's the default font. Although his font choices do not deviate too much from the norm, Allison said font choice could affect a student's grade if a professor looked for "professionalism."

Lisa Ferrando, senior, said most professors during her freshman year specified fonts, but noted that it does not happen as often anymore. Ferrando said she usually writes papers in whatever is required or a more basic font, but said she would stay away from using any cursive fonts.

"They're cool looking, but you can't read the paper," Ferrando said.

Though there are multiple fonts available on word processing programs, Gordon said it's best to follow guidelines.

"Do what your professor asks you to do," Gordon said. "Stick with those. If your editor or publisher wants you to do 10-point triple-spaced Arial, do that."

etorisk@thejambar.com

Script Bold PAPERL Formal Script Mystic, MYSTIC Easy Normal
SNYDER SPEED Sheriff, SHERIF Marker, MARKER Cezanne

Archer ARCTIC Arctic SantaFe SANTAFE Kedzie KEDZIE Comic COMIC Massey MASSEY
Chicago CHICAGO New City Funstuff Andy ANDY Darwycke KEYSER Spilly MEAD Mead T1

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Marijuana: Easing the pain through legalization

RELATED STORY

New Bill, page 1

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The purpose of the medical profession is first and foremost to save lives. Its secondary purpose is to ease pain and suffering and improve quality of life. It makes little sense, then, to refuse to allow patients access to a relatively mild pain reliever.

When the pain reliever in question is marijuana, however, the federal and state government has consistently done just that, refusing this mild sedative to the chronically ill, even while they allow them access to much stronger and more dangerous medications, such as morphine and oxycodone.

There is no indication that marijuana does any additional damage to patients with chronic illnesses such as glaucoma, cancer or multiple sclerosis. There is strong testimonial evidence that it eases the pain associated with these diseases, though.

There were 41,507 marijuana offenders in state and federal prisons in 2004, according to the most recent Bureau of Justice statistics report, issued in 2006.

Further, marijuana arrests cost taxpayers an estimated \$10.7 billion dollars per year, according to a study by public policy expert Jon Gettman, PhD.

This is much too high a price for working Americans to pay, especially during tough economic times, for virtually no benefit.

Drug laws have also been used as a tool for racial discrimination. A study by the Drug Policy Alliance Network found that although only 13 percent of drug users are black, they represent 38 percent of those arrested, and 52 percent of those convicted for drug offenses.

If the government will not reduce penalties for marijuana, or legalize it outright, it should at least recognize the authority of doctors to decide on the proper treatments for their patients.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

DID YOU KNOW THE BATMAN HAS A NIGHTLIGHT IN HIS ROOM?



The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,
This letter is in response to the article regarding the 45th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Perhaps known as one of the greatest murder mysteries of all time, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has for years intrigued scholars, authors and the average American citizen.

The assassination can be classified into two distinct categories: method and significance. Few would argue that too much emphasis has been given to the method and very little to the significance. This is exactly how the perpetrators would like it to be.

Photographic evidence along with eyewitness testimony has already conclusively proven that JFK was shot by more than one

assassin. The Mary Mormon photo clearly shows the profile of a shooter behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll. It is obviously someone wearing a policeman's uniform (some speculate it was J.D. Tippit.)

This was the fatal head shot. Two other bullets struck the president; the first one entered at the base of the throat and the second struck him in the back. While the positions of the assassins makes for a good game of clue, the more important issue is the significance of the assassination.

Many have speculated that the former Soviet Union, Cuba, the KKK, the Mafia, LBJ, CIA and the FBI all had strong motives to attempt this.

However, given the connection of Lee Harvey Oswald to the CIA and Jack Ruby to the Mafia

along with the altered autopsy reports, the evidence points to a coup d'etat by the CIA. They did it because they believed JFK was taking the United States on the wrong path towards dealing with communism.

That is the reason why the cover-up has been sustained for so long. The perpetrators honestly believed they were doing the right thing for the United States at the time.

The will of the people was discarded in favor of preserving the nation as they saw fit. Unfortunately, they didn't realize the long term effects of the assassination. One result was the increased power of capitalism over democracy. Profit has become more important than freedom.

Corporations are more concerned with increasing the wealth

of a select few than with promoting the general welfare of the very nation that allows them to conduct business. A second result has been the subordination of this nation's civil liberties to the private agendas of the powers that be. The only opinions that are accepted today are those that further the bottom line. Contrary opinions are discouraged and distorted by spin doctors.

The only explanation for the lack of attention given to the significance of the assassination is because the government, the military and the media all know what happened and to expose the event for what it really was goes to the central core of what constitutes the United States of America.

Joe Bialek

COMMENTARY

World leaders united on economic front

Oleg Mityayev
RIA Novosti

At the G20 summit last week, the leaders of the world's major economic powers promised to do all they can to restore world economic order by reforming global financial control.

The Group of 20 includes both the most industrialized countries and the fastest developing nations. However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the center of financial and economic power is moving from the West to the East.

The summit's primary achievement was the adoption of a joint declaration with recommendations on overcoming the global financial crisis. Next April, the G20 will gather for another summit, most likely in London, in order to discuss implementation of these proposals.

This is clear evidence that the G20 rather than the G7 or the G8 will play the first fiddle in international relations while overcoming the global financial crisis and, probably, after it as well. It is becoming obvious that as a result of the crisis, China, India, Russia, and the rich Persian Gulf countries are becoming heavyweights in the international financial organizations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The declaration does not blame the crisis on the United States, which is relatively successful at world diplomacy, but castigates greedy investors for a failure to adequately assess the risks in the rush for huge profits. It also criticizes some unnamed regulating bodies for overlooking these risks or not addressing them properly.

First and foremost, the G20 stands for stronger control of

banks and financial markets. Now that the financial markets and many banks have become global, national regulators have failed to control them properly. It suggests "establishing supervisory colleges for all major cross-border financial institutions, as part of efforts to strengthen the surveillance of cross-border firms."

In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the resilience and transparency of the credit derivatives markets, which have come to look like uncontrolled financial pyramids. Traditionally credit security was derived from an underlying asset. Now there are derivatives based on other derivatives that are based on an underlying asset. A bright example is the subprime debacle in the United States, which triggered the credit crisis.

The problem was created by the issue of an enormous amount of unregulated credit. On Friday, American regulators announced their intention to set up an agency to oversee credit practices. Europe is planning to take similar measures.

What to do with the freedom of trade?

The G20 urged against protectionist measures during the crisis, and expressed caution against trade barriers and other export and investment restrictions during the next 12 months. This is correct because such measures destroy world economic ties and worsen the crisis.

Having signed the declaration, U.S. President George W. Bush, who will lead America for two more months, instantly declared that only free market principles will produce economic growth.

G20 finance ministers were instructed to submit plans on implementing these proposals by March 31 of the next year. The G20 will discuss these plans at its next summit in April.

THE JAMBAR ASKS What's on your mind?



"I can't wait for Thanksgiving break."

Demetrius English, sophomore



"Work, school and sleep."

Brian Phillips, freshman



"Going home and going to sleep."

Kahlia Alexander, junior



"I'm wondering how my car is gonna make it back to Cleveland."

Anjalina Lyons, junior

COLUMN

Dierkes deliberated



What I'm thankful for

Doug Dierkes
COLUMNIST

The Thanksgiving festivities will be starting this Thursday, and most of us will probably use it as an excuse to take a four-day weekend from school and work. But while you're gorging yourself on turkey (or tofurkey, we here at the Jambar don't discriminate against vegans,) take a moment to reflect on the past year. Be glad of the happy moments that gave your life purpose, and be proud of the hardships that served to make you stronger.

... Okay, now that we got that sentimental crap out of the way, I'd like to say what I'm thankful for this year.

I'm thankful to still have a job in this unstable economy. Sure, I'm pretty much screwed once I graduate, but as long as I'm working on this degree, I have a paycheck in my future.

I'm thankful for my access to the Internet and basic cable, even if the two great screens of modern society have done more to wreck my education than to fuel its advance.

I'm thankful to have a dog. A hyperactive, aggressive, chew-on-your-hands-just-cause-she's-bored dog. But a dog nonetheless, and one that doesn't seem to mind me being away at school for a majority of the day.

I'm thankful that my job has forced me into writing more than I have ever produced in a year. I fear that at some point, these columns and blog entries may point toward a descent into madness, but at the moment this is still something I can proudly show off on my resume.

I'm thankful that I have found as many friendships as I have rediscovered. I only wish I had enough cash on hand to treat them all to a round at Barley's.

I'm thankful that I've been able to learn from some of the most intelligent and entertaining professors in the nation. I only wish I had enough cash on hand to treat them all to a round at Barley's.

I'm thankful for my dad teaching me how to maintain and repair my car. It's been on blocks for more of the year than I would have liked, but it still runs despite its battle wounds.

I'm thankful to still have optimism about the world, no matter how many times it teeters on the edge of destruction. If nothing else, it gives me something to smile about once the global thermonuclear war starts.

Most of all, I'm thankful to be alive during one of the most politically charged, environmentally unstable, economically challenging times in all of history. I'm a horrible writer, and I need the material.

The views of this columnist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.



Penguins dominate Gators for first win of the season

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team swamped the Allegheny Gators in a big way as the Penguins defeated the Gators 96-59 to earn their first win of the season in front of the home crowd at the Beeghly Center Saturday.

In a press conference before the Allegheny contest, head coach Jerry Slocum spoke on how his team could get better with a strong performance in the team's second home game of the season.

"We got a lot of things to improve on. We have to build on the good and things we have not done well we obviously have to change them and get better," Slocum said.

The men's basketball team responded to their coach as they played their best and most complete game of the young season as they walloped the Gators to build momentum for their upcoming contest at Robert Morris University.

Against Allegheny, the Penguins would put six players into double figures for the game as junior DeAndre May scored a career best 19 points to spearhead the Penguins scoring. Sophomore Vytas Sulskis scored 13 points, while senior Jack Liles

and junior Kelvin Bright added 12 points. Liles also pulled down 13 rebounds for his first double-double of the year.

Even though the Gators shot a better field goal percentage (40 to 37) in the first half, the Penguins were the more active team as they were not shy about putting up 18 more shots in the first half than the Gators. With those 18 extra shots, the Penguins would make six more buckets to build a substantial lead and set the tempo for the remainder of the contest.

After the Penguins seized the lead at 8-6 with a jumper by junior Kelvin Bright, YSU would never trail in the game thereafter. The Penguins forced the Gators into 14 turnovers in the first half leading to 24 points for the Penguins. The Penguins out rebounded the Gators 27-21 and YSU played stellar defense with more blocks and steals. Bright would lead the Penguins in scoring for the first half with eight points and had three rebounds and two assists. The early offensively explosion led to a comfortable 39-25 lead for the Penguins entering the second half.

The second half produced less drama about the outcome of the game than paint drying. The Penguins were on full throttle mode in the second half as they felt they did not do enough in the first half with only a 14 point lead. The Penguins turned the offense up a notch as they would put up 57 points in the second half to put the game out of reach for the Gators.

The second half was such a dominating performance that the Penguins would have lost by two points to the Gators if they just used their second half point total. The Penguins shot a lights-out 60 percent from the field as they raised their total game percentage from 40 percent to 48 percent with the strong second half push. Slocum was able to empty his bench as all 12 players who dressed for the game saw playing time.

klangford@thejambar.com

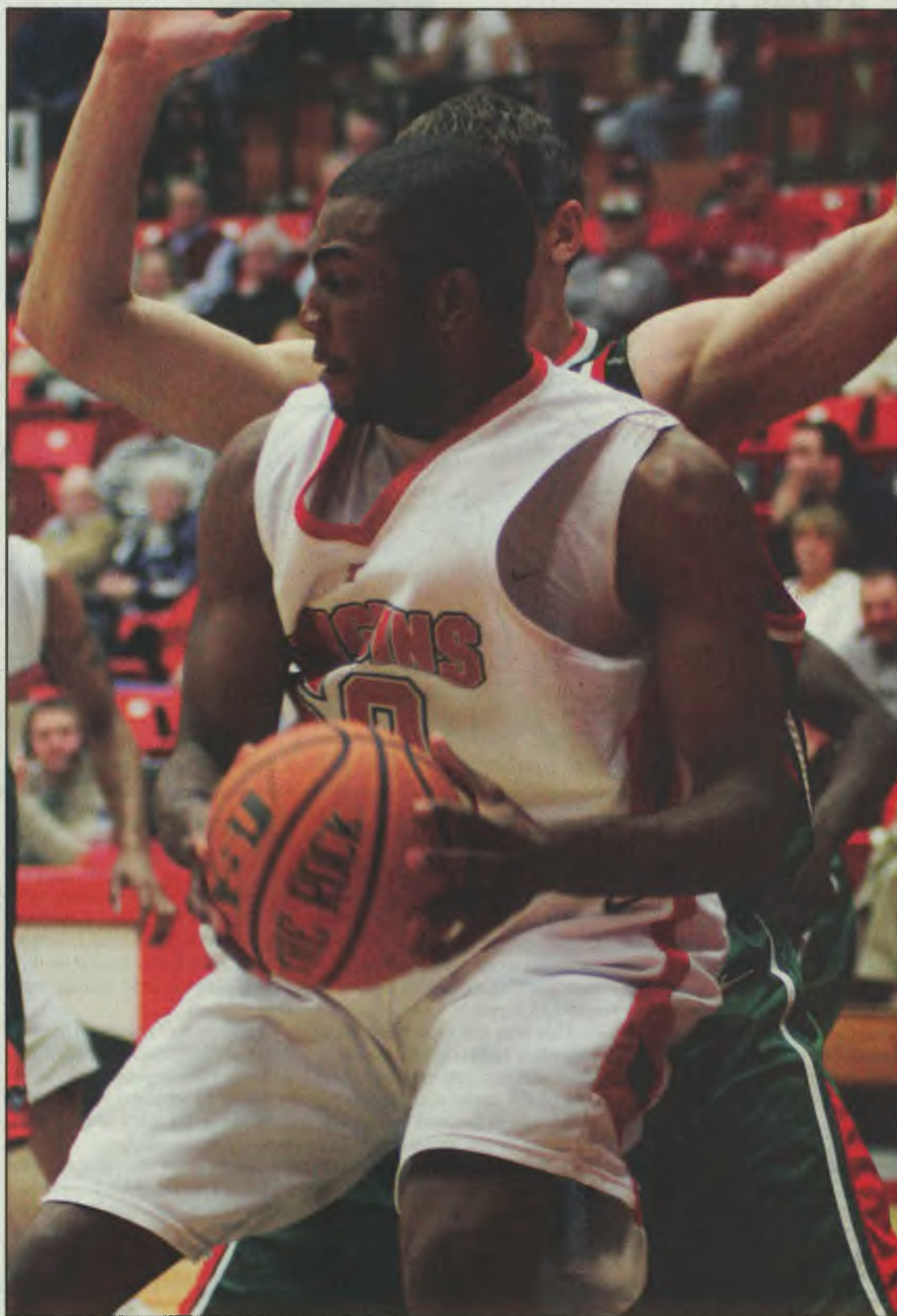


PHOTO COURTESY OF RON STEVENS

DOUBLING UP — Senior Jack Liles posted his first double-double of the season against the Allegheny Gators, scoring 12 points and adding 13 rebounds in the Penguins' 96-59 victory Saturday.

PENGUIN SPORTS TO THE POINT

Records fall as Penguin swimmers win YSU Invitational

Senior Olivia Arnold and sophomore Ashley Williamson were up to their record-breaking ways again on the final day of the Youngstown State Invitational at the Beeghly Center Natatorium on Sunday.

Arnold set a new standard in the 1,650-yard freestyle while Williamson eclipsed her mark in the 200-yard butterfly which she set just last week.

The Penguins won the event with an impressive team score of 873.5 Saint Francis (Pa.) was second at 763.5, California (Pa.) placed third at 629 and Mount St. Mary's came in fourth at 377.

Arnold won the 1,650 in a time of 17:55.54. She also placed third in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:31.75.

Williamson won the 200-yard fly in a time of 2:09.49. She finished second in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:11.01.

YSU took second and third in the 100 free as Kirstin Walker had a time of 53.71 seconds while Megan Rupe was fourth with a time of 54.40.

In the 1,650-yard freestyle Natasha Bray placed third with a time 17:55.61. Caitlin Cook came in second in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:12.20.

The Penguins were just out-touched at the finish by California in the 400-yard freestyle relay. YSU had a time of 3:35.28 behind the Vulcans' 3:35.17.

Following the win, the YSU swim team will head to Honolulu, Hawaii for its annual winter break training trip. The team departs for Hawaii Dec. 2 and returns to YSU on Dec. 11.

Source: Sports Information

Horizon League Standings

Team	Record
Butler	3-0
Milwaukee	3-2
Green Bay	2-2
Loyola	2-2
Valparaiso	2-2
Cleveland State	1-2
Detroit	1-2
UIC	1-2
Youngstown St.	1-2
Wright State	0-2

Women's basketball falls short to Niagara

Andrew Berry
SPORTS EDITOR

The Penguins were unable to nab their first win of the season in front of the home crowd.

Haunted by a night of near-miss shots, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team lost its third straight to the Niagara Purple Eagles Saturday at Beeghly Center.

Niagara escaped Youngstown with its first win of the season as the Penguin offense could not find any rhythm throughout the contest. A nine-minute drought of no baskets enabled the Purple Eagles to build a 14 points lead forcing the Penguins to play from behind for the rest of the contest as Niagara's defense held strong.

The Penguins finished the game shooting just 33 percent from the floor and only five out of 24 shots from behind the 3-point line.

Despite the offensive struggles, head coach Cindy Martin said the team she inherited this season is primarily a shooting team from the outside. The team's philosophy has been getting inside shots closer to the rim.

While it appeared practice had been paying off, the shots simply did not fall for the Penguins.

"We were getting shots but we just couldn't connect," Martin said.

Leading the way for the Penguins against Niagara, junior guard Jaquetta Westley scored in double figures with 12 points on the night. Westley also contributed defensively with four steals and two rebounds.

Westley said after the game that even though the result was a loss, the team appears to be improving under their new coaching staff.

"I think this game we had a lot of effort. We improved but we just need to hit more shots," Westley said.

Not only did the Penguins have trouble shooting from the field, the usually reliable charity stripe proved not to be so chari-



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON STEVENS

OFFENSIVE WOES — Senior Kelsey Gurganus suffered an off night as she managed just four points in the team's home loss.

table against the Purple Eagles.

The Penguins managed to get the foul line 18 times in the contest but only converted on eight of the attempts. Niagara was much more successful with its free-throw opportunities converting 15 of 22 attempts.

While the offense struggled, the defense attempted to pick up the slack and did the best it could forcing 21 turnovers which the Penguins were able to convert into 19 points.

Though successful, Martin believes the team could have forced more turnovers.

"I thought we did a good job of pressuring a team that we thought would turn it over more,"

Martin said.

With the loss, the Penguins are now 0-3 on the season while the Purple Eagles bettered their mark to 1-2.

YSU returns to action Friday in the University of Pittsburgh Tournament. The team has not tasted victory yet, but Martin appeared patient and said the players are progressing in the new system.

"I can't be too happy or too sad," Martin said. "This is the first year we're taking over a program and the ladies are fighting and playing hard and that's what I can be happy about."

adberry@thejambar.com

Penguin football closes out season on high note, defeat 25th-ranked Leathernecks for second straight victory

Andrew Berry
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University football team was able to play the role of spoiler Saturday in its season finale with Western Illinois University.

Out of playoff contention and no longer in the hunt for the conference title after a grueling season, the Penguins focused their remaining energy on the No. 25 Leathernecks, looking to end the season on a high note with two straight wins.

The Penguins were out-gained in the total offense but the defense for YSU did just enough to silence the Leathernecks in the closing minutes of the tightly contested game.

With less than a minute remaining and the score in favor of the Penguins at 31-28, Western Illinois reached into the playbook hoping to find a way to get into field goal range for a chance at a last-second kick to send the game to overtime.

On third down, the Leathernecks needed just six yards to keep the drive alive, but senior cornerback De'Angelo Wilson leaped in front of a pass for the walk-off interception that sealed the win for the Penguins.

YSU posted an impressive day offensively as junior quarterback Brandon Summers completed 19 of his 22 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns. Summers would also add another touchdown with his legs despite finishing the day with negative three rushing yards.

Summers played well despite not having a familiar face in the backfield. Senior wide receiver Ferlando Williams took over at the running back spot for the game due to the position being depleted by injury.

Williams, who has also been

spotted lining up at quarterback in his Penguin career, stepped up to the plate as a running back against the Western Illinois defense as he rushed for 90 yards on 26 carries and added a touchdown.

But if there was any player that earned the offensive player of the game



award, it would have to go to Western Illinois' running back Herb Donaldson.

Prior to the game, head coach Jon Heacock stressed the importance of keeping Donaldson contained. The nation's leading rushing and scorer had been shredding defenses all sea-

son and letting the talented back find space would lead to trouble for the Penguins.

Even though the Penguins had no answer for Donaldson, the running back's huge day was all for naught as the Leathernecks couldn't capitalize on their star player's impressive performance. Donaldson ran wild on the Penguin defense picking up 235 yards on 40 carries with a touchdown. Donaldson proved his candidacy for the Peyton Award which is handed out annually to the best offensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

But Donaldson alone could not boost the Leathernecks enough to keep up with the scoring drives of the Penguins. The key to the game was the Penguin's ability to successfully shutdown Western Illinois quarterback Matt Barr who had a pedestrian day at best.

The Penguin secondary held Barr to a meager 100 yards passing as the Leatherneck quarterback managed to complete just seven of his 11 pass attempts.

With the win, YSU finished in seventh in the final Missouri Valley Football Conference standings with a final record of 3-5 in the league and 4-8 overall. The Penguins finished ahead of Illinois State University (3-8, 2-6) and Indiana State University (0-12, 0-8) which failed to win a game for the second consecutive year.

The Missouri Valley conference will be represented by two teams this season as Northern Iowa University and Southern Illinois University received bids in the FCS playoffs. Northern Iowa faces off with Maine while Southern Illinois will have to deal with New Hampshire in the first round.

adberry@thejambar.com